

# In Search of Giuseppe Salati

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Giuseppe Salati, who lived in Gioi from 1847 to 1930, is my second great uncle. At SOGNA we are familiar with Giuseppe Salati in that he wrote *L'Antica Gioi* as a way to capture the rich history of Gioi and its people. During our September 2016 visit to Gioi, one of my goals was to try to learn more about my family history. I was fortunate to be able to learn much about Giuseppe Salati.

The home of Giuseppe was at 29 Via Giacumbi. We started by visiting Giovanni and Bruna Bianco who live in the apartment above. Giovanni is my first cousin, once removed; and is the son of my great aunt Donna Armida Salati who died in 1977. Severino D'Angelo acted as our interpreter as I do not speak Italian, and Giovanni and Bruna were limited in English. We had a good time during our visit, and we shared family photographs.

The following day we returned to visit the home of Giuseppe Salati which is currently vacant. The neighbor, Luigi Scarpa had the key and let us in to see. We began by opening the massive original wooden doors. Behind these doors was a beautifully carved wooden door, with a textured glass oval in the upper half. The lower section of this door had a carving of the combined Salati / Cardone family crest, complete with the family motto "*Quo Vis Ex Hoc? Verescit Omni Tempore Virtus*". Next to the door handle was a brass plaque which stated "*Avvocato Cavaliere Giuseppe Salati*".

We continued into the apartment which appeared to be unchanged for many decades. It is even possible that the apartment was unchanged from when Giuseppe Salati died in 1930. There was some beautiful antique furniture and, curiously, old photographs, that were in decay over time, of his children on

the walls. In the dining room, on a patterned floor of white and brown marble, was another version of the Salati/Cardone crest set in marble. From the exterior balcony was a view of the valley below and the Tyrrhenian Sea. I can imagine Giuseppe Salati standing on that balcony taking in the view below him.

Our next stop was to Gioi Cemetery in hopes of finding his resting place there. The cemetery is not large, and it did not take us long to find his grave. The grave is in an old central building that also holds the remains of my grandfather, my great grandfather, and several other Salati family relatives. Giuseppe Salati is buried in the same tomb as his wife Donna Beatrice Romano, his son Ettore Salati, his daughter Giuditta (Titta) Salati, his daughter Bianca Salati, and her husband Pasquale De Marco. Also buried there is Giuseppe's father, Donatantonio Salati, who is my great-great grandfather. On the grave marker there was no mention of Giuseppe's mother who was the Marchesa Giuditta Cardone of the nearby village of Prignano. So we drove to Prignano to see if we could learn anything more about her. We walked through the village and found the Palazzo Cardone. The adjacent church, San Nicola di Bari, contained a floor crypt for the Marchese Cardone. We also went to Prignano Cemetery and found the crypt for the Cardone family, but it was locked so our search ended there. Perhaps another trip to Italy will reveal the resting place for my great-great grandmother.

Giuseppe Salati died 28 years before I was born. I have read *L'Antica Gioi*, so I understand a little about him. The trip to Gioi and the visit to his home helped much. And I now know where his final resting place is in Gioi Cemetery. Please rest in peace Giuseppe. You are not forgotten.